

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 PRS-01 PC-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 /131 R

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IO/ P: FBLACHLY

AF/ P: BRUSSELL

NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER

EUR/ P: ESAVAGE

H: KFOLGER (INFO)

----- 058596

R 141908 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY

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USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING MAY 14,
1973:

QUOTE: Q. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE ATTITUDE OF
THE U. S. GOVERNMENT TOWARDS THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE HEAD
OF LIBYA?

A. WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE TEXT OF CHAIRMAN QADDAFI'S REMARKS,
BUT IF HE IS QUOTED ACCURATELY, WE ARE SURPRISED AND DEEPLY
CONCERNED BY HIS PROPAGATING WHAT HAS COME TO BE KNOWN AS
"THE BIG LIE" -- NAMELY, THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS SOMEHOW
INVOLVED IN THE BEIRUT RAID. HE IS, OF COURSE, COMPLETELY
AWARE OF OUR REPEATED CATEGORIC DENIALS OF ANY ALLEGATIONS
OF U. S. COMPLICITY IN THE RAID, AND WE FIND INCOMPREHENSIBLE
HIS LENDING CREDENCE TO WHAT IS NO MORE THAN EMBELLISHMENT
OF THE PREVIOUS CANARD.

THE FACTS OF THE BEIRUT RAID WERE WELL ESTABLISHED DURING
THE RECENT SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER, AND
IF CHAIRMAN QADDAFI HAS ANY FACTS WHATSOEVER TO BACK UP THIS
TEST AND BASELESS FALSEHOOD, HE SHOULD MAKE THEM PUBLIC AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Q. HAS THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED ANY INDICATION FROM ANY
OTHER ARAB COUNTRY WHICH ESSENTIALLY SUPPORTS THE CHARGE
MADE BY QADDAFI?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

Q. IS THAT STATEMENT BEING MADE ONLY TO US OR TO HIM?
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A. I SIMPLY AM NOT IN A POSITION HERE AT THE PRESENT TIME
TO KNOW WHAT IF ANY DIPLOMATIC CONTACT WE MIGHT HAVE HAD
WITH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS PARTICULAR MATTER. I
WILL CHECK ON IT.

Q. IS THERE ANY KNOWLEDGE HERE OF A REPORTED ANTI-QADDAFI

PLOT BY A PRIVATE ARMY OF MERCENARIES?

A. YOU ARE REFERRING TO A 1970 --

Q. YES.

A. YES, WE DID HEAR IN 1970 THAT A GROUP OUTSIDE LIBYA WAS PLANNING AN ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT. WE PASSED THIS INFORMATION TO THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES.

Q. WHY?

A. IT WAS JUDGED TO BE APPROPRIATE IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THAT TIME.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY " AT THAT TIME" YOU WOULD NOT PASS SUCH INFORMATION IF IT WERE AVAILABLE TODAY?

A. I WOULDN' T WANT TO SPECULATE ON THAT.

Q. CAN YOU AMPLIFY ON THE INFORMATION THAT WAS RECEIVED AND TURNED OVER?

A. NO.

Q. WERE THERE ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED IN THIS?

A. IF THERE WERE, I KNOW THAT -- WELL, LET ME SAY THIS. IN READING THE REPORT THAT I HAVE READ, I SAW WHERE ANOTHER GOVERNMENT WAS MENTIONED. BUT I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENT ON THIS MATTER. END QUOTE. RUSH

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